

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for securely collecting information from a user,  
2 comprising:
  - 3 (a) delivering a medical test device to a patient;
  - 4 (b) retrieving test data from the test device; and
  - 5 (c) distributing test data to authorized recipient.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data collector is a hardware  
2 device.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (b) comprises retrieving  
2 the data collector and extracting the data.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (b) comprises extracting  
2 the data before retrieving the data collector.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) comprises:  
2 (a1) accepting a request to ship a test device from a requestor;  
3 and  
4 (a2) communicating with a logistics system directing shipment of  
5 the device to the patient.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step (a1) comprises the sub-  
2 steps of:
  - 3 authorizing the requestor to make the request; and
  - 4 accepting the request.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) includes the sub-step  
2 of:

3 providing an id number for the medical test device; and  
4 recording the id number prior to transmitting the test device to the  
5 patient.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) comprises:

2 (a1) authorizing a requestor to make a request to transmit the test  
3 device to the patient;

4 (a2) accepting a request from the requestor to transmit the test  
5 device to the patient;

6 (a3) recording a unique identification number for the test device;  
7 and

8 (a4) communicating with a logistics system to transport the device  
9 to the patient.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

2 (d) tracking the time following completion of said step (a) and  
3 initiating step (b) within a fixed time period.

1 10. The method of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of said step (a) is  
2 performed via a computer over a communications network.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said communications network  
2 includes a modem.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein said communications network is a  
2 global computer communications network.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said communications network is a  
2 wireless link.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (c) is performed over a  
2 series of at least one private and at least one public network.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (c) comprises:  
2 (c1) determining, based on input from the patient, said authorized  
3 recipient; and

4 (c2) verifying a recipient's authorization to receive data before  
5 distributing said data.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (c) is performed using  
2 secure communications.

1 17. The method of claim 4 wherein said step (b) is performed using  
2 secure communications.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises the sub-steps of:  
2 (a1) receiving a request from a first physician for a medical test,  
3 subject to verification by an authorized physician; and  
4 (a2) receiving authorization from the authorized physician.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said step (c) comprises:  
2 (c1) receiving authorization from the patient for the first physician  
3 to receive distributions of patient's data; and  
4 (c2) distributing the patient's data to referring physician.

1 20. A method for collecting data, comprising:  
2 (a) providing a medical test to a patient;  
3 (b) collecting the testing apparatus from the user once the user  
4 completes testing; and

5 (c) distributing test information from the apparatus to authorized  
6 recipients.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a) comprises:

2 (a1) accepting a request to ship a test device from a requestor;  
3 and

4 (a2) communicating with a logistics system directing shipment of  
5 the device to the patient.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a1) comprises the sub-  
2 steps of:

3 authorizing the requestor to make the request; and  
4 accepting the request.

1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a) includes the sub-step  
2 of:

3 providing an id number for the medical test device; and  
4 recording the id number prior to transmitting the test device to the  
5 end user.

1 24. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a) comprises:

2 (a1) authorizing a requestor to make a request to transmit the test  
3 device to the patient;

4 (a2) accepting a request from the requestor to transmit the test  
5 device to the patient;

6 (a3) recording a unique identification number for the test device;  
7 and

8 (a4) communicating with a logistics system to transport the  
9 device to the patient.

1 25. The method of claim 20 further including the step of:  
2 (d) tracking the time following completion of said step (a) and  
3 initiating step (b) within a fixed time period.

1 26. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a) is performed via a  
2 computer over a communications network.

1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein said communications network is a  
2 modem.

1 28. The method of claim 26 wherein said communications network is a  
2 global computer communications network.

1 29. The method of claim 28 wherein said communications network is a  
2 wireless link.

1 30. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (c) is performed over a  
2 series of at least one private and one public network.

1 31. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (c) comprises:  
2 (c1) determining, based on input from the patient, said authorized  
3 recipient; and  
4 (c2) verifying a recipient's authorization to receive data before  
5 distributing said data.

1 32. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (c) is performed using  
2 secure communications.

1 33. The method of claim 20 wherein said step (a) is performed using  
2 secure communications.

1     34.    The method of claim 20 wherein step (a) comprises the sub-steps  
2     of:

- 3           (a1)   receiving a request from a referring physician for a medical  
4     test, subject to verification by an authorized physician; and  
5           (a2)   receiving authorization from the authorized physician.

1     35.    The method of claim 34 wherein said step (c) comprises:

- 2           (c1)   receiving authorization from the patient for the referring  
3     physician to receive distributions of patient's data; and  
4           (c2)   distributing the patient's data to referring physician.

1     36.    A method for conducting a medical test for an authorized physician,  
2     comprising:

- 3           (a)    collecting an order for a device;  
4           (b)    transmitting a medical test device to a user;  
5           (c)    extracting test results from the test device;  
6           (d)    retrieving the test device from the user subsequent to the  
7     user inputting test results into the device; and  
8           (e)    distributing test results to authorized recipients.

1     37.    The method of claim 36 wherein said steps are performed  
2     sequentially.

1     38.    The method of claim 36 wherein said step (a) is performed using an  
2     information server coupled to a public network.

1     39.    The method of claim 36 wherein said step (a) comprises:

- 2           (a1)   accepting a request to ship a medical test device from the  
3     physician; and

4 (a2) communicating with a shipper directing shipment to the  
5 patient.

1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein said step (a1) comprises the sub-  
2 steps of:

3 verifying the physician is authorized to make the request; and  
4 accepting the request.

1 41. A system for providing a test system to a patient, comprising:  
2 an interface server including an ordering interface coupled to a  
3 communications network accessible by a plurality of computers;  
4 a database server coupled to the interface server;  
5 a logistics system transmitting a medical test to a patient at the  
6 direction of a physician accessing the ordering system via the interface  
7 server and retrieving the test from the patient upon completion of the test;  
8 and  
9 a data transfer system, collecting test results from the medical test  
10 and distributing results via a secure mechanism to an authorized recipient.

1 42. The system of claim 41 wherein the interface server includes an  
2 order authorization application.

1 43. The system of claim 42 wherein the authorization application  
2 includes at least a consumer access level, a patient access level, a  
3 member access level and a physician access level.

1 44. The system of claim 41 wherein the database server includes a data  
2 structure including a physician record data structure, a manufacturing  
3 record database, a client record database and a device record data  
4 structure.

1 45. The system of claim 41 further including a journaling application  
2 transferring orders to the logistics system.

1 46. The system of claim 41 further including an inventory inquiry  
2 application communicating with the logistics system.

1 47. The system of claim 41 wherein the logistics system includes an  
2 interface application to a commercial shipper.

1 48. The system of claim 41 further including a device return verification  
2 application, communicating with the logistics system.

1 49. The system of claim 41 further including a data extraction  
2 application.

1 50. The system of claim 41 further including a data report generator.

1 51. A method for conducting a medical test for an authorized physician,  
2 comprising:

3 (a) collecting an order for a device input via a computer and  
4 received via a communications network;

5 (b) transmitting a medical test device to a patient at a patient  
6 defined location;

7 (c) extracting test results from the test device;

8 (d) retrieving the test device from the patient subsequent to the  
9 user inputting test results into the device; and

10 (e) distributing test results to authorized recipients via a secure  
11 connection to said communications network.



1 52. The method of claim 51 wherein said steps (c) and (d) are  
2 performed sequentially.

1 53. The method of claim 51 wherein said step (d) is performed prior to  
2 said step (c).

1 54. The method of claim 51 wherein said step (c) is performed via said  
2 network.

1 55. The method of claim 51 wherein said step (c) is performed via a  
2 modem.

1 56. The method of claim 51 wherein said step (c) is performed via a  
2 wireless communications link.

1 57. The method of claim 51 wherein said communications network is at  
2 least partially a public network and said steps (a) and (c) are performed via  
3 a secure link through said network.